

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Water-thinnable polyurethane with at least two free OH groups obtainable from a first conversion of a primary and/or secondary alkanolamine with a NCO compound giving an intermediate product, followed by the addition of a cyclic carboxylic anhydride to the intermediate product; with

the NCO compound exhibiting at least one free NCO group and no blocked NCO group;
all alkanolamine being converted during the first conversion to the intermediate product such that the nitrogen atom of the alkanolamine reacts with one of the free NCO groups of the prepolymer to form a urea bond; and

the cyclic carboxylic anhydride reacting, with ring opening, with the OH group, originating from the alkanolamine, of the intermediate product.

2. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to claim 1
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the NCO compound does not exhibit any OH group.

3. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to claim 1[or 2]
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the NCO compound is modified by at least one alkoxypoly(oxyalkylene) alcohol.

4. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the NCO compound is a prepolymer.

5. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the NCO compound exhibits at least two free NCO groups.

6. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein at least one OH group of the alkanolamine is linked with its nitrogen atom via a substituted or non-substituted alkyl group with 2 to 6 carbon atoms in the main chain.

7. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein OH groups originating from the alkanolamine are fully or partially secondary.

8. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein alkanolamine is diethanolamine and/or diisopropanolamine.

9. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein it has an acid number of at least 10 mg KOH/g, in particular of at least 20 mg KOH/g.

10. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the polyurethane has a number average molecular weight of between 500 and 10,000, in particular between 1,000 and 4,000.

11. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the cyclic carboxylic anhydride is selected from the group of phthalic anhydride, hexahydrophthalic anhydride, tetrahydrophthalic anhydride, methyl hexahydrophthalic anhydride, succinic anhydride and maleic anhydride.

12. (Currently Amended) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of claims 1 to 10 characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the cyclic carboxylic anhydride is trimellithic anhydride.

13. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of~~] A method, comprising contacting a water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims claim 1 in combination~~ with a melamine resin for the production of hot curing coating compositions.

14. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of~~] A method, comprising contacting a water-thinnable polyurethane according to claim 13 characterised in that the melamine resin is a highly alkylated melamine resin.

15. (Currently Amended) [~~Use~~] A method according to claim 14 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the melamine resin is one without NH groups ~~in particular hexamethoxymethyl melamine (HMMA).~~

16. (Currently Amended) [~~Use~~] A method according to ~~one of claims 13 to 15 characterised in that~~ claim 13 wherein the crosslinking temperature is less than 145°C.

17. (Currently Amended) [~~Use~~] A method according to ~~one of claims 13 to 16 characterised in that~~ claim 13 wherein the crosslinking temperature is more than 180°C.

18. (Currently Amended) [~~Use of~~] A method, comprising preparing a coating composition by including in the composition a water-thinnable polyurethane according to ~~one of the preceding claims claim 1 for the production of coating compositions, in particular of fillers in the motor vehicle industry.~~

19. (New) Water-thinnable polyurethane according to claim 2 wherein the NCO compound is modified by at least one alkoxypoly(oxyalkylene) alcohol.

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20. (New) A method according to claim 15 wherein the melamine resin is hexamethoxymethyl melamine.